

COUNCIL MEETING**Report of the Chancellor**

The Chancellor advised he has participated at the following events since the last Council meeting:

- Sod Turning at Whittlesea Tech School, hosted by Melbourne Polytechnic
- Pitch@Palace on tour, hosted at Government house – an event designed to connect entrepreneurs and early stage business with potential supporters, mentors etc
- University Chancellors Council (UCC) meeting (Canberra 12/13 Oct)
- Launch of 'Exhibit F', a historic photo exhibition in the annex of the Union building.

The Chancellor advised that the UCC has been working with the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) to develop a Foundations of Directorship course specific to the university sector. A pilot 3 day course will be held in Melbourne on the 7 – 9 February 2018, with 25 spaces available. A copy of the program will be circulated and Council members who would like to attend should let the secretariat know.

Council noted Professor Christine Bigby was reappointed as Chair of the Academic Board for a further term and congratulated her on the progress made in invigorating the Board during her first term.

Council also noted the election for student position to Council has commenced and the results will be circulated early next week.

Report of the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor advised that:

- the *Higher Education Support Legislation Amendment Bill* is expected to be considered in the Senate next week, however tentative predictions are that it will not be passed in its current form. With only four sitting weeks remaining in 2017, if the Bill does pass there will be significant challenges in implementing some of the changes due to commence in 2018
- La Trobe has performed well in the latest round of NHMRC grant applications, receiving approx. \$3.8M in funding
- Professor John Forster, a researcher at AgriBio was reported missing last Saturday. He was hiking around Sugarloaf Reservoir in Christmas Hills and while the search is continuing, there has been no news as yet.

Murray Darling Medical School Update

The Chief of Staff spoke to this item and advised:

- a decision on the MDMS may be imminent, however the original proposal may require modifications prior to approval
- on the 26 September Ms Steph Ryan, Deputy Leader of the Victorian Nationals called for the proposed Victorian campus of the MDMS to be located in Shepparton. La Trobe had not previously considered Shepparton as the main campus for the MDMS and a move of this kind would require either significant new government investment and/or significant modification to the original proposal

Council remained supportive of a medical school but suggested management reconsider the model that best aligns with La Trobe's strategic planning. Council requested a progress update be provided to the next Council meeting.

PVC College SHE Portfolio Update

The PVCC SHE spoke to this item and advised:

- a plan is in place to help minimise attrition rates with the SHE College. Courses with the largest attrition rate have been refreshed, information sessions are held for potential students to ensure they are fully informed prior to enrolling, and support centres for maths and chemistry have been established (aimed primarily at assisting first year students)
- Fee Waivers are important to ensure La Trobe remain competitive in the market and attracts its share of high ATAR students. Forecasting around fee waivers has improved for 2018
- Work Integrated Learning (WIL) placements are increasing in non-clinical courses, with 46 WIL subjects now available in the College. This shift in curriculum to a more industry connected approach will hopefully improve employment outcomes for graduates.

Council **noted** the report and congratulated Professor Pike on the progress he has achieved in the first year of his appointment.

School and Division Reviews

The VP Administration spoke to this item and advised:

- these reviews are part of the regular review cycle
- the new Chief Information Officer commences next week and is on-board with the review recommendations and action plan
- the LTU Sport review highlighted the need to better integrate this unit into the overall objectives of the university around education and research.

Council **note** the following Panel Review Reports and **approved** the Review Action Plans:

- the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division Review Panel Report and Action Plan
- the La Trobe Sport Division Review Panel Report and Action Plan.

Class of Student

Council **approved** the resolution on class of students under the La Trobe University Act 2009, regarding the definition of teaching materials.

Appointment of Authorised representative to Unitemps

Council **approved** the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor to act as LTU's authorised representative pursuant to section 250D of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), to exercise all of LTU's powers as a member of Unitemps La Trobe Ltd.

Nominations Committee Report of Council

Council approved the re-appointment of Mr Peter McDonald as a member of Council for a term concluding 31 December 2020.

Ombudsman re-appointment

Council **approved** the reappointment of Professor Andrew Brennan as University Ombudsman for a period of two years from 1/1/2018 – 31/12/2020.

Academic Board Report to Council

Council **noted**:

- **noted** the Academic Board report to Council from a meeting held on Wednesday 13 September 2017
- **approved** the revised Academic Board Regulations 2017
- **noted** that the following policies were approved by the Board:
 - revised La Trobe Essentials Policy
 - revised Graduate Research Supervision Policy
 - revised Graduate Research Examinations Policy
 - **noted** that Academic Board approved the award of Honorary Degree, as referred by the Vice-Chancellor, to Ms Olivia Newton John, AO, OBE – DLitt

Finance and Resources Committee Report to Council

Council **noted**:

- the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee from its meeting on 27 September 2017
- the Financial Management Report as at 31 August 2017.

Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee (21 Sep)

Council:

- **noted** the minutes of the Infrastructure and Estates Planning Committee meeting held on 21 September 2017
- **approved** the continued discussions with State/Federal government in parallel with reopening discussions with stakeholders and Greater Shepparton City Council to further the Shepparton Tertiary Education Precinct Development Plan

Foundation Committee (11 Oct)

Council:

- **noted** the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017
- **approved** the appointment of Ms Clare Pullar for a term commencing 16 October 2017 to 31 December 2019.